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**Environment Department Issues an “UPDATED BOIL WATER ORDER” for
Lumberton MDWCA**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau is updating a boil water advisory for consumers of the Lumberton Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA). This advisory was originally issued to citizens served by the Association’s water system in early 2001 for not meeting the Surface Water Treatment Rule for high turbidity levels. NMED officials want to reiterate that the boil water advisory is still in effect due to continuing problems and related bacteriological contamination. Recent laboratory results on April 27, 2005 indicated the presence of *E. Coli* bacteria in the Association’s water system that exceeded the Acute Maximum Contaminant Level.

Consumers of the Association’s water system are still advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, dishwashing and brushing teeth.

The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for *E. coli* in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli* or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The Association has received funding and is working with an engineering firm for construction of a new surface water treatment plant, storage tank(s), distribution lines and other infrastructure components scheduled to be completed some time this year. These improvements should address Lumberton’s water quality issues. In addition, the NMED will continue to assist the water system on their Total Coliform Rule issues.

The New Mexico Department of Health has also been notified and will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Consumers of the water system may call (505) 827-0006, if they have any water-related health concerns.

For more information contact Mike Huber, DWB-DII Manager, at (505) 827-7536 x.1009 or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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